(b) the details of notices issued in respect of overcharging under DPCO, 1987, when was each notice issued and whether the file of one leading defaulter vanished from the records when the present officer concerned incharge of recovery was the Desk Officer;

(c) if so, the full details and action taken against the Officer and the outcome thereof; and

(d) the products involved in this case and why the amount due has not been worked out so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Shortage of Fertilizers

6588. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dalmias propose to set up a one million tonne Urea Plant (1800 TPD Ammonia with a 3000 TPD Urea in the State of Karnataka) as reported in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 21st April, 1995; if so, which other Groups have been given permission to set up such fertilizers plants in the country indicating location thereof; and

(b) whether Government have finalised Indo-EEC Fertilizers Education Programme so as to provide improved package of agricultural practices in India including efficient and balanced use of fertilizers to the farmers, and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) As per the Industrial Policy Statement of July, 1991, industrial licensing has been abolished for the fertilizers industry. Therfore, entrepreneurs are free to set up fertilizer plants any where in India subject to environmental clearance. Dalmias have not formally intimated their plan to set up a fertilizer plant in Karnataka. M|s. Escorts Ltd. have asked for naphtha alocation for setting up a ammonia-urea plant in Punjab. Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd. have sought allocation of natural gas for putting up a gas-based ammonia urea plant in Assam M|s. Nagrjuna Fertilizers & Chemicals Ltd. have intimated their plants to expand the capacity of their gas-based ammonia-urea plant at Kakinada (Andhra Pradesh). IFFCO is currently implementing projects for expansion of the capacities of their ammonia-urea plants at Kalol (Gujarat), Aonla (Uttar Pradesh) and Phulpur (Uttar Pradesh). M|s. National Fertilizers Ltd. are implementing a project for expansion of the capacity of their ammonia-urea plant at Bijaipur (Madhaya Pradesh).) Likewise, M|s. Madras Fertilizers Ltd. are also currently implementing a project for modernisation| expansion of their existing fertilizer plants at Manali (Madras).

(b) Indo-EEC Fertilizer Education Programme has been posed for EEC funding.

Threat by Workers of Fertilizer sector

6589. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASAWAMY: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether fertilizer sector workers have threatened a nationwides stir over the proposed closure of the Haldia and Gorakhpur fertilizers plants in the public sector;

(b) if so, Government's reaction to such a threat; and

(c) whether Government will revive these two fertilizer units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) The Fertilizers Workers Federation of India, in a resolution passed by them in April, 1995, have expressed their deep concern over the reported earmarking of Haldia Project of Hindus-

tan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) and Gorakhpur unit of Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. (FCI) for closure. The resolution also contains an appeal to the workers of fertilizer industry to organise a movement against this reported move.

(b) and (c) It has been felt that since revival of Haldia project of HFC and Gorakhpur unit of FCI would not be an economically viable proposition, and the solution lies in setting up new plants at these locations, these units would be hived off from their parent companies and offered to other enterpreneurs. However, since both these companies namely, HFC and FCI, including their Haldia Project and Gorakhpur unit, stand referred to the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), any final decision on their future would depend upon the outcome of the proceedings pending before the BIFR, which is a quasi-judicial authority.

Joint Ventures by Indian Fertilizer Companies and Oman Oil Corporation

6590. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Fertilizer Companies and the Oman Oil Corporation have agreed to set up 897 million Ammonia Urea project in Oman;

(b) if so, the companies short-listed so far by KRIBHCO-RCF to implement the project; and

(c) the ratio of equity share in the ambitious joint venture project and whether any meeting of the JMC (Joint Management Committee) has been held so far to finalise any strategy for funds to be raised in international market for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Government of India/Krishak Bharati Cooperative Ltd./Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers Ltd. and Government of the Sultanate of Oman/Oman Oil Company on 30th July, 1994 to prepare a Detailed Feasibility Report for setting up an ammonia-urea project in Oman at an estimated cost of US $ 897 million, including financing charges.

(b) So far, only the stage of prequalification of engineering, procurement and construction bidders has been reached. The actual award of work for implementing the project would have to await the finalisation of Detailed Feasibility Report which is slated by the end of July, 1995.

(c) As per the MOU, the equity shareholding in the proposed joint venture project is envisaged as follows:—

(i) KRIBHCO/RCF — 40% to 50% (including affiliates)

(ii) Oman Oil Company — 40% to 50% (including affiliates and third-party investors)

(iii) Omani Public — 20% to 0%

Four meetings of the JMC have been held so far, JMC has appointed M/s. Morgan stanley as the Financial Adviser to the project who, inter-alia, would assist JMC in finalising the strategy for raising funds for this project from the inter-national market.

Expansion of Fertilizer Plants

6591. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to expand some fertilizer plants;